

The Carbon Removal Challenge

a global student competition to create new
approaches to carbon removal



OPENAIR



PURPOSE

Carbon removal is far from where it needs to be to avert the worst effects of climate change.

The Carbon Removal Challenge provides students from colleges and universities around the world an opportunity to work towards safeguarding their future.

They will design and build solutions that remove excess carbon from the environment, accelerating carbon tech innovation, and also build connections that will bring the next generation of talented engineers, thinkers, and designers into this important sector.

GOALS

- Support students in creating new carbon removal solutions to reduce excess CO₂ in our atmosphere and carbon in our waters
- Introduce a new generation to carbon removal approaches
- Connect industry experts with students interested in climate tech
- Encourage open sourcing all submissions, allowing for advancement of new technologies and enabling others to build on it



TIMELINE

- **October 13, 2022**
Competition announcement, applications open.
- **Fall 2022**
OpenAir provides carbon removal webinars and videos to participants.
- **January 8, 2023**
Applications closed.
- **Winter 2022-2023**
29 teams work with faculty advisors and OpenAir mentors to build carbon removal prototypes.
- **March 6, 2023**
Teams submit designs and documentation of final prototypes.
- **March 30, 2023**
Judges choose 5 teams for the final showcase at NYU.
- **April 21, 2023**
Final showcase at NYU.



The 2023 OpenAir Carbon Removal Challenge

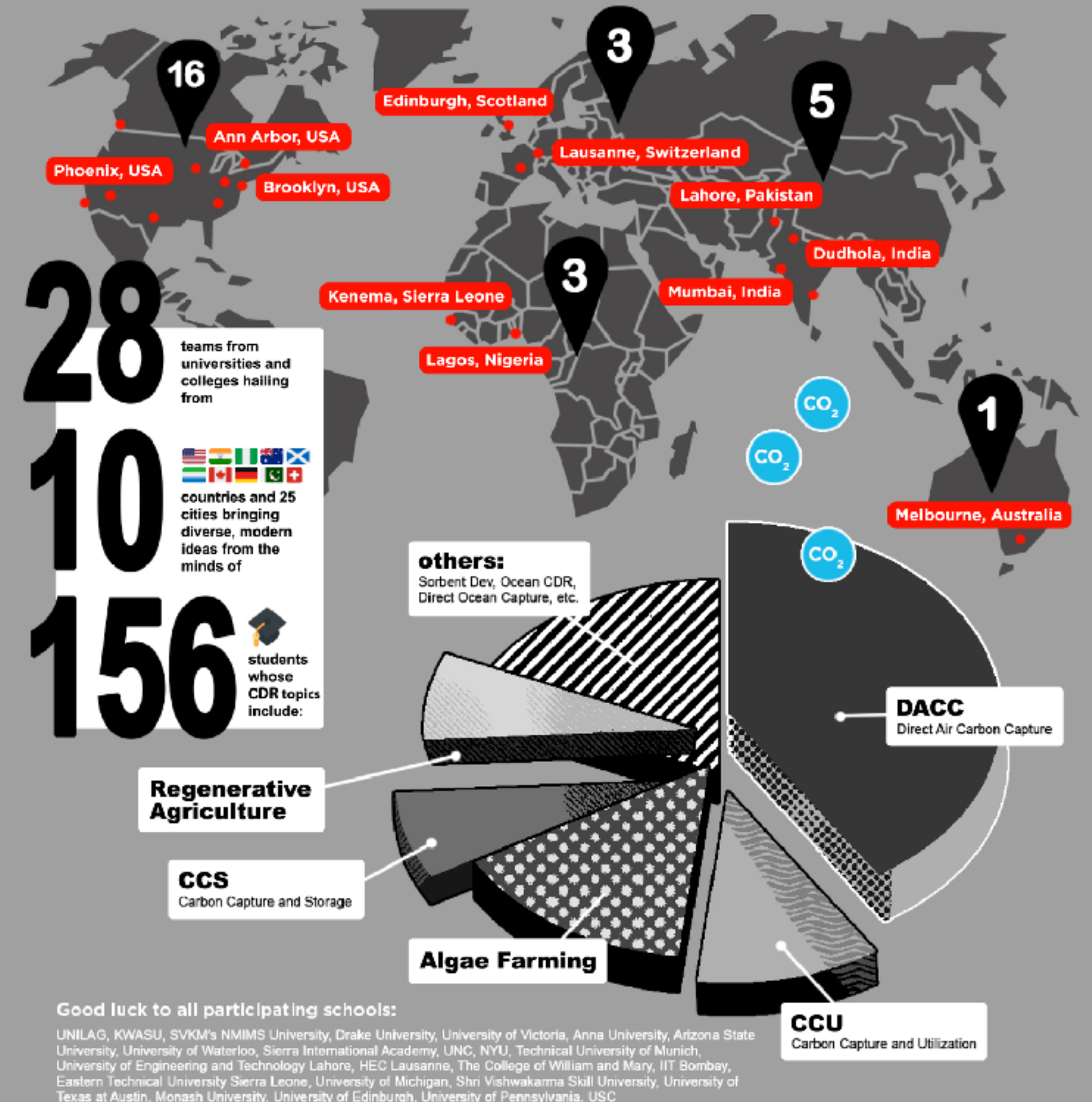
The 2023 OpenAir Carbon Removal Challenge is a worldwide challenge for students to create new processes, approaches and prototypes to remove carbon from the land, waters, or air.

This year, there are student teams from 28 universities and colleges, from as many cities. We have over 20 mentors, judges, and advisors from a diverse range of backgrounds, and several informative webinars on topics like Intro to CDR, lifecycle analysis, scalability, fund raising, and beyond. We also have over a dozen partners and sponsors who have brought the Challenge to life.

LOCATIONS

We worked with our partners to promote the event and recruit teams from around the world to participate, including at the 2022 UN Climate Conference Conference COP27 in Egypt.

Five finalist teams will be invited to the final showcase at New York University in Manhattan, in April 2023.



CHALLENGE IMPACT

- Supports teams from around the world in generating new ideas and approaches to carbon removal.
- Encourages a new generation to become leaders in climate tech innovation.
- Gives students a critical insights and connections in carbon removal, acting as a feeder into the climate solution industry.

THE PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE

Over the course of the Challenge, we have offered info sessions, webinars, and office hours from experts in carbon removal.

The top 5 ranked teams will be invited to take part in the Carbon Removal Challenge Final Showcase at NYU.

OpenAir, through the generosity of our sponsors, will provide as much assistance as possible with travel, accommodations, per diems, and shipping to finalist teams.

The Final Showcase will be the evening of April 21st, as part of NYU Sustainability's 2040 Now Initiative. Prior to the showcase, students will be invited to several climate-related events at and around NYU. We are working with our partners and sponsors to provide a comprehensive schedule of meetings and networking events, while also leaving time in the visit for the teams to experience NYC.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

	Gigaton Level Sponsor \$25,000	Megaton Level Sponsor \$12,000	Kiloton Level Sponsor \$5,000
Prize named after sponsor	✓		
Participation in Judging	✓	✓	
Sponsor Team	2 teams	1 team	
One on One Meeting with Finalists	All Finalists	3 Finalists	1 Finalist
Logo on the website	✓	✓	✓
Booth*	✓	✓	✓
Tickets*	20	10	5

In addition to the awards below, one year naming rights to the Carbon Removal Challenge (ie, “The Carbon Removal Challenge presented by X”) are available at a higher tier. Some sponsorship offerings specific to the venue are still being finalized, but will be confirmed or replaced with other benefits of equal value if necessary. We are also open to alternative sponsorship benefits or models, if there is something of value for your organization that is not outlined above. Sponsorship funds will go directly towards supporting the Challenge (minus 7% fee for our fiscal sponsor), primarily in the form of direct stipends for teams to use towards travel, lodging, and shipping of devices for the final showcase at NYU in April 2023.

ADVISORS



Dr. Lehman Marks

Founder of the Solar Car Challenge, the top project-based STEM Initiative for high school students in Science and Engineering



Dr. Evvan Morton

Policy Fellow, American Association for Advancement of Science & Technology



Dr. Gregory Nemet

Lead Author, UN IPCC Report; Author, *How Solar Became Cheap*; Professor, University of Wisconsin



Tom Igoe

Co-founder of Arduino; Professor: NYU ITP, Area Head for Physical Computing



Michael Weinberg

President of the board of the Open Source Hardware Association, Executive Director of the Center on Innovation Law and Policy at NYU

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CARBON CATCHERS

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Collective**
UNLEASHING CLIMATE INNOVATION

GreenPortfolio
grow clean returns

 Climate Tech
Cities

 carbon
upcycling

THE OPENAIR COLLECTIVE

The OpenAir Collective is a distributed, volunteer-led network aiming to capitalize on opportunities to advance, accelerate, and co-invent carbon dioxide removal (CDR) through advocacy and research & development missions.

We have thousands of members around the world working on over two dozen initiatives, including the Carbon Removal Challenge. OpenAir has spearheaded impactful public policy across the US at both the state and federal level, as well as international legislation. We also have multiple active open hardware R&D projects.

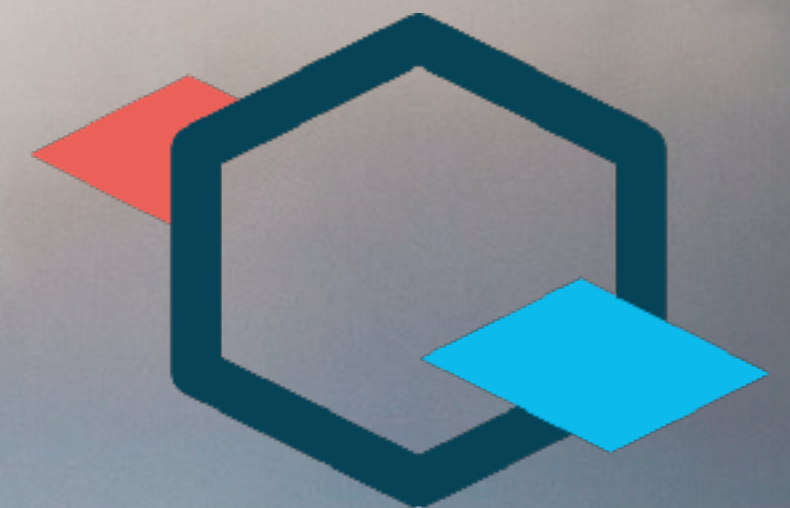
WHY CARBON REMOVAL

Any chance we have of limiting average global temperature change to a survivable threshold (1.5C or below) must include the removal of carbon from the atmosphere, and that technology is orders of magnitude away from where it needs to be by mid-century.

The United Nations' [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) has [called for Carbon Dioxide Removal \(Negative Emissions Technologies\)](#), to help us stay below 1.5C above preindustrial temperatures – the threshold scientists agree is the point at which we will irreversibly impact our climate for the worse.

Additional information at openaircollective.cc/crc/

For sponsorship, contact Matt Parker at mp612@nyu.edu



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